

THE STATE OF IDAHO  
SUPREME COURT



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**NEWS RELEASE**

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## **Idaho Supreme Court Issues 2007 Annual Report**

*(Boise) – The Idaho Supreme Court has released its 2007 annual report on the Idaho judiciary. Chief Justice Daniel T. Eismann said, “In spite of increasing caseloads, Idaho’s judges are fulfilling their constitutional mandate to serve the citizens of our state and to address some of the most difficult social issues facing our state.”*

*The full report is available on the court’s website: [http://www.isc.idaho.gov/annual\\_cov.htm](http://www.isc.idaho.gov/annual_cov.htm).*

More than 500,000 cases were reported in the district courts in 2007, representing a two percent increase from the previous year. The report cites a 30 percent increase in DUI filings but only modest growth in the number of other filings in the state’s district and magistrate courts.

Chief Justice Eismann, serving his first year at the head of the Idaho judiciary, says the state must continue to make progress with its drug and mental health courts, particularly in light of expanding caseloads in these areas. Idaho now has 52 drug and mental health courts and 404 graduates from such courts in 2007. Participants in drug and mental health courts undergo extensive counseling and must appear regularly before a judge who closely monitors their progress. A rigorous evaluation of outcomes of 10 felony drug courts over four years has demonstrated statistically significant reductions in recidivism.

“Innovations such as drug courts and mental health courts provide a cost-effective, community-based alternative to prison growth and decrease the burden felt by taxpayers,” the Chief Justice said. Eismann added that the state’s progress with drug and mental health courts would not have been possible without extensive cooperation among all three branches of state government.

A total of 20,333 cases were filed in the district courts of Idaho in 2007, an increase of 2 percent from 2006. A total of 481,849 cases were filed before magistrate judges in 2007, a 2 percent increase from 2006.

Felony DUI filings reported a 30 percent increase over the number reported just one year before. After increasing for three years, misdemeanor DUI filings fell slightly from the number reported during 2006. Juvenile case filings increased to the highest point in 10 years, with 14,817 cases entering the system. When compared to 2006, there was an 8.3 percent increase in filings. Continuing a decline that began in 2003, the number of requests for domestic violence protection orders dropped 5 percent from 2006.

Chief Justice Eismann said the updated annual statistics underscore the need to ensure that Idaho’s courts are able to continue responding to the 40 percent increase in caseloads that Idaho’s judicial system has experienced over the past two decades.

**For additional information:**

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